

37. (Amended) A method for metal smelting comprising the steps of:

(A) preliminarily reducing a mixture of one or more of mixture of raw materials selected from the group consisting of following-given (a) through (c) in a prereduction furnace of rotary hearth type until a part of the metal oxide and/or the metal hydroxide is metallized;

(a) a mixture of raw materials prepared by mixing at least a carbonaceous material and a metal oxide and/or a metal hydroxide,

(b) a mixture of raw materials prepared by mixing and granulating at least a carbonaceous material and a metal oxide and/or a metal hydroxide, and

(c) a mixture of raw materials prepared by mixing and molding at least a carbonaceous material and a metal oxide and/or a metal hydroxide; and

(B) melting and finally reducing the mixture of raw materials, which is preliminarily reduced in the step (A), by charging thereof to a melting furnace using the carbonaceous material as a reducing agent, and using combustion heat of the carbonaceous material and combustion heat of carbon monoxide generated in the melting furnace as main heat source;

wherein, in the step (A), a charge consisting mainly of a powder and particle raw material (one or more of raw material selected from the group consisting of a mixture of raw materials, a metal oxide and/or a metal hydroxide, and a carbonaceous material) and/or a charge consisting mainly of powder and particles of an auxiliary raw material being charged to the melting furnace, or a charge consisting mainly of powder and particles of the powder and particle raw material and/or the

A2  
powder and particles of the auxiliary raw material, is charged onto the rotary hearth of the prereduction furnace, then granulates and/or molded forms of the mixture of raw materials are supplied to the upper layer of the charge at downstream side along the route of rotary hearth movement.

Please cancel claim 46 (first occurrence) which is set forth on page 245, the third and fourth lines from the bottom of the page.

Please add the following new claim 70:

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70! (New) The method for metal smelting of claim 45, wherein the primarily crushed ore has particle sizes of from 0.1 to 1 mm.

#### REMARKS

The correction of the numbering of claim 37 is the obvious correction of an obvious error. The following claim is claim 38 and it depends from claim 37.

The claim originally identified as claim 46 on page 245, the third and fourth lines from the bottom of the page is cancelled and the same subject matter inserted as claim 70. Page 245 includes two claims 46. The first claim 46 was deleted because it is much shorter than the second claim 46 which remains.